

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 76-82 are currently pending. Claims 76, 80, and 81 having been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification, for example, on page 63, line 15 to page 65, line 19; and Figure 3. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 76 and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 76 and 79-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,289) in view of Ferlitsch (U.S. Patent No. 7,471,407); and Claims 77 and 78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwata and Ferlitsch in view of Butterworth et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0133656, hereinafter "Butterworth").

Applicant thanks Examiner Lai for the courtesy of an interview with Applicant's representatives on December 30, 2010. During the interview, differences between proposed amended claims and the applied art were discussed. The Examiner indicated that the proposed claim amendments appear to distinguish over the applied art, however, no formal agreement was reached, and the Examiner indicated further consideration and/or search would be necessary. Claim amendments and arguments similar to those discussed during the interview are presented herewith for formal consideration.

With respect to the rejections of Claims 76 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, Applicant respectively submits that the present amendments overcome these grounds of rejection.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicant respectively traverses this ground of rejection, as independent Claim 76 recites novel features

not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references. Amended Claim 76 recites, *inter alia*,

a communication unit configured to communicate with the other image forming apparatus connected via a network, the other image forming apparatus including a first printing unit that is configured to print, onto a recording medium of the document source apparatus, the first image data or the first document stored in a document storage unit;

a document reception unit configured to transmit a first transmission request for the first image data or the first document to the other image forming apparatus and to receive the first image data or the first document transmitted by the other image forming apparatus;

a second printing unit configured to print, onto a recording medium of the document destination apparatus, the first image data or the first document received from the other image forming apparatus via the document reception unit;

the document storage unit configured to store the second image data or the second document; and

a document management unit configured to, in response to receipt of a second transmission request for the second image data or the second document from the other image forming apparatus, transmit the second image data or the second document stored therein to the other image forming apparatus via the communication unit.

Applicant respectively submits that Iwata and Ferlitsch fail to disclose or suggest at least the “first printing unit” of amended Claim 76.

Iwata describes a system including a server E103, a computer E102, and a printer E101 which transfers a document information request to the server E103 and in response, the server E103 transmits back document information to the server E103. (See Iwata, column 5, lines 28-55).

The Office Action acknowledges that Iwata does not disclose or suggest “the other image forming apparatus including a first printing unit that is configured to print the first image data or the first document,” as recited in previously presented Claim 76.

The Office Action relies on Ferlitsch to remedy the deficiencies of Iwata with regard to previously presented Claim 76.

Ferlitsch describes a system for monitoring an imaging job including a computing device 102 and an imaging device 120 such as a physical printer in communication with the computing device 102. (See Ferlitsch, Abstract; and column 5, lines 11-15). Ferlitsch shows, in Figure 9, an embodiment of peer-to-peer printing where the client computing device 902 despools a print job directly to the imaging device 904 using its print subserver 912. (See Ferlitsch, column 12, lines 5-10; and Figure 9).

The Office Action appears to assert that a combination of the computing device 902 and the print subserver 912 of Ferlitsch corresponds to the “the other image forming apparatus including a first printing unit that is configured to print the first image data or the first document,” as recited in previously presented Claim 76. (See Office Action, page 6). However, as discussed during the interview, Ferlitsch merely describes that the print subsystem 912 despools a print job to the imaging device 904. Ferlitsch does not describe the print subsystem 912 (i.e., as the first printing unit) being configured to ***print, onto a recording medium of a document source apparatus, image data or a document stored in a document storage unit.***

Therefore, Iwata and Ferlitsch, either alone or in proper combination, do not explicitly disclose or suggest “the other image forming apparatus including a first printing unit that is configured to print, onto a recording medium of the document source apparatus, the first image data or the first document stored in a document storage unit; a document reception unit configured to transmit a first transmission request for the first image data or the first document to the other image forming apparatus and to receive the first image data or the first document transmitted by the other image forming apparatus; a second printing unit configured to print, onto a recording medium of the document destination apparatus, the first

image data or the first document received from the other image forming apparatus via the document reception unit,” as recited in amended Claim 76.

In view of these considerations, it is respectively submitted that Iwata and Ferlitsch fail to disclose or suggest or make obvious the pending claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection based on Iwata and Ferlitsch is respectfully requested for at least these reasons.

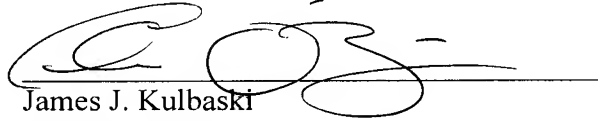
Butterworth has been considered but fails to remedy the deficiencies of Iwata and Ferlitsch with regard to amended Claim 76. Therefore, Applicant submits that amended Claim 76 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over Iwata, Ferlitsch, and Butterworth, either alone or in proper combination.

Additionally, although differing at least in scope, amended independent Claims 80 and 81 patentably distinguish over Iwata, Ferlitsch, and Butterworth for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to amended Claim 76. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 80 and 81 patentably distinguish over Iwata, Ferlitsch, and Butterworth, either alone or in proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Kulbaski', written over a horizontal line.

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